App. cation No. 09/255,777 Docket No. 740756-1936

DEC 1 0 2002 P.S.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 29231, on

December 4, 2002...

Pamela L. Patrick

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

FORMING THE SAME

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Explicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

The undersigned certifies that either (1) each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in connection with a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this statement, or (2) no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The information provided herein was cited by the Japanese Patent Office in a counterpart application on November 19, 2002.

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

NVA248650.1

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing which may be required now, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380.

Respectfully submitted,

Jatobay

. Costellia

Registration No. 35,483

NIXON PEABODY LLP 8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800 McLean, Virginia 22102

Telephone: (703) 770-9300